

On April 13, 2005, the House acted to permanently repeal the death tax. On June 8, 2006, the Senate fell just three votes short. I urge the Senate to try again to develop a permanent solution to the death tax so we can fix this problem once and for all this year.

RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Good morning, Mr. Speaker. Imagine if you had not received a pay increase since 1997. The price of goods and services you rely on like gasoline and prescription drugs have gone up dramatically over the last few years. But one thing that hasn't been the minimum wage. It has almost been 10 years that we haven't raised the minimum wage, and the reality is that 7 million Americans will not receive a minimum-wage pay increase. And most of those individuals happen to be single head of households, women, with kids, children.

Democrats want to take America in a different direction. We want to expand opportunities to millions of Americans that feel they have been left behind by the Bush economy that has favored the wealthiest few above the middle class. One of the ways we want to expand opportunity is by giving minimum-wage workers a pay raise for the first time in a decade.

Last week, Democrats passed an amendment to the Labor-HHS appropriations bill that would raise the minimum wage from \$5.15 to \$7.25 an hour. Democrats were joined by several Republicans in passing this commonsense amendment. We need to have support to bring this up and vote on it. Let's give those 7 million people an increase in the minimum wage.

CHAMPIONSHIP HOCKEY IN NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, championship hockey on North Carolina's Tobacco Road, unbelievable, as one of my Boston colleagues said last week. Well, very believable this date because the Carolina Hurricanes prevailed over the spirited and talented Edmonton Oilers and now proudly display the revered Stanley Cup.

The Hurricanes formerly played in Greensboro, located in the congressional district I represent, but now call Raleigh, North Carolina, home. And the Raleigh and Carolina fans have been superb this season.

Mr. Speaker, "redneck hockey," as it came to be known, is here to stay.

Congratulations to the Carolina Hurricanes.

LINE-ITEM VETO IS A VEILED ATTEMPT TO ADDRESS RECORD DEFICITS

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans will attempt to distance themselves from their 5-year record of fiscal irresponsibility when they try to put through a line-item veto.

You may remember that President Bush said that he needed the line-item veto in his State of the Union speech this year. This is nothing but a hoax. President Bush and the Republican-controlled Congress have been partners in creating record deficits since taking control, complete control of our government in 2001. Over that time, more than 1,000 bills have been sent to the President to sign; and he has signed all of them, each and every one.

And now the President wants a line-item veto. If he was really concerned about the way the House Republican Congress is spending American taxpayer money, one would think that the President would have voted some of these bills down which were sent to his desk. But, no. The President and the Republican Congress have turned a \$5 trillion surplus into a \$4 trillion deficit. And they have nobody to blame but themselves.

So if the President really wanted to do something about spending, he should take some action now and veto some of these bills.

HOUSE REPUBLICANS FIGHT AGAINST PORK BARREL SPENDING

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, when Members of Congress propose ways to spend American tax dollars, we should be held publicly accountable for our requests. This week, House Republicans will take another important step to eliminate excessive spending from the Federal budget process.

Congress has a strong leader for fiscal responsibility with Congressman PAUL RYAN of Wisconsin, who has proposed a positive way to bring increased transparency and accountability to our budget process. By granting President Bush the authority to single out individual spending items in the legislation, the Legislative Line Item Veto Act will help target wasteful and unnecessary spending. This legislation would enable the President to strike spending from a piece of legislation and would require Congress to hold an up-or-down vote on the spending within 14 legislative days.

Passing this bill will send a strong statement that the power of the purse does not provide permission for pork barrel spending.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SENIORS NEED A SIMPLE, AFFORDABLE AND RELIABLE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFIT

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, American seniors know that the Republican prescription drug plan that took effect earlier this year is deeply flawed. The plan is complex and confusing, unfair and unreliable.

This is not the plan seniors wanted. They didn't ask for a plan that forced them to go outside of Medicare to choose from dozens of private insurance plans, or a plan that creates a giant gap in coverage that leaves them with no benefits but still requires them to pay monthly premiums.

They didn't ask for a plan that slaps those who haven't yet selected a plan with a penalty that stays with them the rest of their lives.

Democrats believe it is time that seniors receive a simple and affordable drug plan. We can make prescription drugs more affordable by giving Medicare the ability to negotiate lower prices with the drug companies just like the Veterans Administration does. We can make the plan simpler and more cost effective, creating a plan within the current Medicare system.

Mr. Speaker, Democrats are not satisfied with the status quo. We will fight to do more to help our seniors afford their prescription drugs.

PREACHER FOX

(Mr. POE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, a hypocrite always practices what he preaches against. And while Vicente Fox took a whirlwind tour of the United States acting like an old-fashioned revival preacher preaching open borders, trying to intimidate Americans into allowing the illegal invasion of his people down Mexico City way, the gospel of truth comes out.

Mexico, it seems, wants its southern border locked down. The Mexican Government says too many illegals are sneaking into Mexico, especially those Guatemalans. The Mexican Government says that illegals are taking jobs from Mexican citizens. Sound familiar?

While Mexico is demanding open doors into the rest of North America, they have got their own dead bolt on the door to the rest of the world.

Preacher Fox, practice what you preach. Your immigration laws are even tougher than America's. Why don't you open up your southern border to illegals? And meanwhile, preach to your own people that illegally entering the United States is just wrong. Quit trying to be self-righteous and telling America what to do.